

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 /070 W

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R 310909Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1843

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9472

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, XH

SUBJ: BALKAN CONFERENCE

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF DECEMBER 30 MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF BALKAN AFFAIRS ERKAN GEZER CONFIRMED THAT TURKEY HAS FINALLY AGREED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF BALKAN COUNTRIES TO BE HELD IN ATHENS JANUARY 26, 1976. TURKISH APPROVAL APPARENTLY CAME DECEMBER 27 AFTER RECEIPT OF A GREEK NOTE INDICATING THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING HAD BEEN REDUCED TO EXPERT LEVEL AS OPPOSED TO SUB-CABINET LEVEL WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED.

2. GEZER SAID GOG HAS BEEN INFORMED OF TURKISH DECISION BUT TURKS DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS IT MIGHT CAUSE. HE ALSO SAID GOT HAS NOT DECIDED YET WHO WILL LEAD THE TURKISH
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DELEGATION ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE COMPOSED MAINLY OF TECHNICIANS

FROM MINISTRIES OTHER THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE MEETING WILL DEAL PRIMARILY WITH ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, ALTHOUGH THE EXPERTS THEMSELVES WILL DETERMINE WHAT SPECIFIC TOPICS ARE TO BE DISCUSSED.

3. COMMENT: BELATED TURKISH DECISION TO AGREE TO ATTEND A BALKAN MEETING, EVEN AT THE EXPERT LEVEL, IS A CLEAR CONCESSION TO GREEKS. GOT IS APPARENTLY DOING THIS IN CONTEXT OF THE BRUSSELS AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAGLAYANGIL AND BITSIOS TO PURSUE ALL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WITH GOOD WILL AND A MINIMUM OF RHETORIC AND PUBLICITY. TURKISH DECISION IS PROBABLY ALSO RESPONSIVE TO PRESSURES FROM OTHER BALKAN COUNTRIES WHO WOULD LIKE TO HONOR THE GREEK REQUEST FOR SUCH A MEETING.
MACOMBER

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